

13. (New) Sealing mat comprising a carrier sheet provided with a multiplicity of sealing elements for sealing test tubes, characterised in that the carrier sheet, on the one hand, and the sealing elements, on the other hand, are made of different materials, such as plastics.

14. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are made from a flexible and/or resilient material.

15. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are detachably fixed to the carrier sheet.

16. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are attached to the carrier sheet in such a way that they detach from the carrier sheet when the latter is pulled away, while folding it over towards the rear, after sealing one or more test tubes.

17. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are provided with a peripheral groove in which the edge of an opening made in the carrier sheet has been accommodated.

18. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 17, characterised in that the peripheral groove has been made just below the top end of the sealing element.

19. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 17, characterised in that the bottom face of the peripheral groove has been continued further in the outward direction than has the top face of the peripheral groove.

20. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are caps for fitting in the open end of the test tubes.

21. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are made of a chemically resistant material.

22. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are made from a TPE (thermoplastic elastomer), in particular a TPE that can be punctured by a needle.

23. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the carrier sheet is made from a PET (polyethene terephthalate) or PP (polypropylene).

24. (New) Sealing mat according to claim 13, characterised in that the sealing elements are arranged on the carrier sheet in accordance with a matrix pattern, for example an 8 x 12 matrix pattern.

IN THE ABSTRACT